

USSN 10/026,586
Page 2

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1 - 19. (Previously canceled):

20. (Currently amended): A recombinant yeast capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a sole carbon source to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer, said yeast comprising either one or both of

a) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding an oxidative enzyme associated with the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer in said yeast a glucose dehydrogenase, a gluconic acid dehydrogenase or a 2-keto-D-gluconic acid dehydrogenase, and

b) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a reducing enzyme associated with the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer in said yeast 2,5-diketo-L-gluconic acid (2,5-DKG) reductase,

wherein the yeast is a member of the family Cryptococcaceae and is capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a sole carbon source to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer.

Claims 21 - 26. (Canceled):

27. (Currently amended): The yeast of Claim 26 Claim 20 wherein the yeast is a *Candida* or *Cryptococcus*.

28. (Previously amended): The yeast of Claim 27 wherein the yeast is *Candida blankii*.

29. (Previously amended): The yeast of Claim 27 wherein the yeast is *Cryptococcus dimennae*.

Claims 30 – 40. (Previously canceled):

41. (Currently amended): A recombinant yeast capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a carbon source to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer, said yeast comprising either one or both of

a) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a glucose dehydrogenase and

USSN 10/026,586
Page 3

b) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a 2,5 -diketo-L-gluconic acid (2,5-DKG) reductase wherein said yeast is *Candida blankii* or *Cryptococcus dimennae* capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a carbon source to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer and is capable of converting glucose to KLG and then utilizing the KLG to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer.

42. (Previously added): The recombinant yeast of Claim 41 wherein said yeast is *Candida blankii*.

43. (Previously added): The recombinant yeast of Claim 41 wherein said yeast is *Cryptococcus dimennae*.

44. (Previously added): A recombinant yeast capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a carbon source to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer, said yeast comprising at least one heterologous nucleic acid encoding a L-sorbose dehydrogenase, a D-sorbitol dehydrogenase, a L-sorbose dehydrogenase or a galactose dehydrogenase, wherein said yeast is *Candida blankii* or *Cryptococcus dimennae* and is capable of converting sorbitol to KLG and then utilizing the KLG to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer.

45. (Previously added): The recombinant yeast of Claim 44 wherein said yeast is *Candida blankii*.

46. (Previously added): The recombinant yeast of Claim 44 wherein said yeast is *Cryptococcus dimennae*.